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Gregory Sees CIA in Iowa

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DICK GREGORY believes that the Iowa caucus votes are a CIA trick.

"Iowa is nothing but a CIA trick. Everytime they get ready to run somebody for president they use Iowa," the comedian activist declared. He wasn't joking. "Just remember that nobody knew Jimmy Carter until Iowa."

Gregory spoke Wednesday to a standing-room-only audience in the Fillmore Room on the University of Buffalo's Main Street campus.

At a press conference before his lecture, Gregory said that the situation in America is "critical."

"We keep getting signals. Anytime the president says this summer that people will have to choose between eating and heating in the winter, that's death. He's not given me no choice..."

GREGORY ADDED that he'd burn every stick of furniture in his home before he'd

allow himself to freeze to death. "Now, how many uncontrollable fires (caused by people burning furniture) can we have in living rooms before this whole town starts to burn?"

Americans, he said, were being tested by the government when gasoline shortages were declared and rationing was put into effect in certain cities.

"Look at how Americans reacted to the gas shortage. People were scheming and plotting, getting up at three in the morning to get a space in the gas line. If welfare mothers had lined up in front of any office in the country because their checks were late, they would have been shot down like dogs.

"**ANYTIME** we expect better behavior patterns out of the poor than we do the rich, this country is in trouble!"

Gregory emerged as one of the nation's most popular comedians in the 1960s and later became active in the civil rights movement and anti-war protests. He has been floating

conspiracy theories for years. The Kennedy assassinations, the murder of Martin Luther King Jr., conspiracies, all conspiracies, he has said.

AS FOR IRAN and Khomeini, Gregory said, "one day we're going to find out that Iran is nothing more than an extension of ourselves (blacks). Khomeini made a speech in 1949 in which he stated that Islam would never see its day until a new political order was set up.

"Ever since that speech, they have been watching Islam ... they realize that the only way to keep Western rule worldwide is to get rid of Islam. America and Russia are in a war game — they've been friends all along ... they are trying to wipe out the Islamic sect over there."

Asked what role blacks could play in America's foreign policy, Gregory noted that blacks "can't have any role in American foreign policy unless they give it to you." Further, he explained, "they said (former United Nations ambassador) Andy Young was talking to the PLO. He didn't do it on his own.

"**WHAT HAPPENED** was the Israeli government was bugging places in New York City and they taped us meeting with the PLO. We denied it and the Israeli's took the tapes to Newsweek and said 'we have the transcripts and we'll expose them.' To save face, Andy stepped down. The next thing you heard, Andy resigned, but announced that he'd work for President Carter's re-election campaign..."

"People talk about the hostages being held in Iran, but they forget about the hostages at our airport when we had that white Russian ballerina. They held up the Russian plane for three days to introduce the U.S.A.'s new black man at the United Nations."



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Dick Gregory in lecture at UB

... still floating odd conspiracies